Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A component-holding-tape connecting apparatus for connecting two component holding tapes through a connecting member having a plurality of caulking claws, by caulking end portions of the respective two component holding tapes and the connecting member in a caulking position, with the connecting member being held in close contact with the end portions, and with each of the end portions being pierced by at least one of the plurality of caulking claws of the connecting member, said component-holding-tape connecting apparatus comprising:

a supplying device holding a plurality of connecting members each provided by the connecting member, and supplying the plurality of connecting members one by one to said caulking position;

a holding device holding, in said caulking position, the end portions of the respective two component holding tapes and the connecting member which is supplied by said supplying device; and

a caulking device caulking the end portions of the respective two component holding tapes and the connecting member which are held by said holding device, by causing at least one of the plurality of caulking claws of the connecting member to pierce through each of the end portions of the respective two component holding tapes, and deforming the at least one of the plurality of caulking claws of the connecting member,

wherein said supplying device includes a rotary body positioning the plurality of connecting members one by one in a predetermined position, and

wherein said rotary body is rotated about a rotary axis thereof by a predetermined angle when operated to position each one of the plurality of connecting members in said predetermined position.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an operating lever and a motion converting device,

wherein said caulking device is operated by operation of said operating lever, to caulk the end portions of the respective two component holding tapes and the connecting member which are held by said holding device, and

wherein said motion converting device converts a pivot motion of said operating lever into a rotary motion of said rotary body.

4. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said rotary body has a plurality of metallic-connecting-member connecting-member holding portions in an outer circumferential surface thereof, and holds the metallic connecting members in the respective metallic-connecting-member connecting-member holding portions.

5. (Original) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a rotary-body holding portion rotatably and detachably holding said rotary body.

6. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 5,

wherein said rotary body is rotatable relative to said rotary-body holding portion about said rotary axis,

wherein said rotary body is movable relative to said rotary-body holding portion in an axial direction parallel to said rotary axis, so as to be detachable from said rotary-body holding portion,

wherein each of at least one of said rotary body and said rotary-body holding portion has a magnet, and

wherein said rotary body is attracted by said rotary-body holding portion owing to a magnetic force of said magnet, so as to be held in a certain position relative to said rotary-body holding portion in said axial direction.

7. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 6,

wherein said rotary body and said rotary-body holding portion have respective magnets each provided by said magnet,

wherein one of the magnets includes a plurality of magnet members disposed to be spaced apart from each other by an angular pitch equal to said predetermined angle, and

wherein each of said plurality of magnet members is brought into a position opposed to a magnet member of the other of said magnets, when said rotary body is positioned in an angular position which causes a corresponding one of the plurality of connecting members to be positioned in said predetermined position.

8. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said rotary body of said supplying device is operated to hold an elongated-shaped holding member which has engaged portions equally spaced apart from each other in a longitudinal direction thereof and which holds the plurality of connecting members which are equally spaced apart from each other, and

wherein said rotary body has, in an outer circumferential surface, engaging portions which are equi-angularly spaced apart from each other and which are to be held in engagement with the respective engaged portions.

9. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 8,

further comprising a cutting-off device cutting each of the connecting members off from the holding member while said each of the connecting members is being positioned in said predetermined position.

10. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said supplying device includes, in addition to said rotary body, a moving device holding the connecting member cut off by said cutting-off device and moving the connecting member to said caulking position.

11. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein said moving device includes a second rotary body which is other than said rotary body as a first rotary body, and

wherein said second rotary body has a plurality of connecting-member holding portions to hold the connecting members, and is rotatable about a second rotary axis thereof which is other than said rotary axis as a first rotary axis.

12. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 11,

wherein said plurality of connecting-member holding portions of said second rotary body have respective magnets, and

wherein said second rotary body holds metallic connecting members as the connecting members which are attracted by said plurality of connecting-member holding portions owing to a magnetic force of each of said magnets.

13. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said cutting-off device has cutting blades each of which is provided in a corresponding one of said plurality of connecting-member holding portions of said second rotary body.

14. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 11, wherein each of said plurality of connecting-member holding portions of said second rotary body constitutes a caulking tool for deforming the at least one of the plurality of caulking claws.

15. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising an operating lever and a motion converting device,

wherein said caulking device is operated by operation of said operating lever, and

wherein said motion converting device converts a pivot motion of said operating lever into a rotary motion of said second rotary body.

16. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising an operating lever and a guide portion,

wherein said caulking device is operated by operation of said operating lever,

wherein said guide portion guides the holding member toward said predetermined position in which each of the connecting members is to be cut off from the holding member, and

wherein said guide portion constitutes a second operating lever which cooperates with said operating lever as a first operating lever to operate said caulking device.

17. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising an operating lever and a guide portion,

wherein said caulking device is operated by operation of said operating lever,

wherein said guide portion guides the holding member away from said predetermined position in which each of the connecting members is to be cut off from the holding member, and

wherein said guide portion constitutes a second operating lever which cooperates with said operating lever as a first operating lever to operate said caulking device.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The component-holding tape connecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said rotary body of said supplying device positions each of the plurality of connecting members in said predetermined position as said caulking position.

20. (Previously Presented) The component-holding-tape connecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said supplying device includes a moving device moving each of the plurality of connecting members, which has been positioned in said predetermined position by said rotary body of said supplying device, to said caulking position.